THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. While this has become a matter of serious concern this has not yet reached a level of crisis.

(c) The induction and retention policies of the Government are regularly reviewed to ensure availability of required manpower for the nuclear power programme. The Department has also placed its concern in this matter before the VI Pay Commission and has requested the Pay Commission to specifically examine the possibility of paying higher remuneration to the employees of DAE.

(d) No, Sir. Since the Atomic Energy Act permits only a Government company with more than 51% share holding by the Central Government to operate in the area of nuclear energy production.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Spillage of radioactive material at Narsannapeta

445. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trailer carrying the radio active yellow cake have overturned at Narsannapeta in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any spillage of radio active material and the subsequent environmental contamination have been noticed by the authorities;

(c) whether any directions have been given to the authorities to take measures which can prevent occurrence of such accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There was no spillage of radioactive material. The Authorities who visited the accident site carried out contamination measurements and confirmed that there was no environmental contamination.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Transportation of radioactive material is always carried out in accordance with the approved safety requirements which ensures adequacy of containment of the material and safety to the public, even under accident condition. Further directions have been given that the drums should be firmly anchored by slings to the transport container to avoid any movement of drums during impact loads/jerks while in transit.

(c) Not applicable.